



NEWSLETTER

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L to R Shaju Joseph, Fr George Thadathil, Fr James Chacko, N.J. George, K.O. Augustine, Terence Mukhia, Roshan Lama and Fr. C.M. Paul.

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Dear Friends (Alumni),

We have just begun today the new month - May 2018. As I am sharing a thought with the Alumni, let me share something connected to Alumni.

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life.

Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite, telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: "If you noticed, all nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink.

What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup. But you consciously went for the best cups... And then you began eyeing each other's cups." Now consider this, he continued. Life is the coffee. The jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain life, and the type of cup we have does not define nor change the quality of life we live.

Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us. God brews the coffee, not the cups... Enjoy your coffee!!

The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything they have. Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. And leave the rest to God.

Did you enjoy God's coffee? Let others enjoy it too.

Your Affectionate Father and Friend,
Fr. (Dr.) Mathew Pulingathil
Rector



Principal's Engagements

5-8 April 18: Invited to the Asia Network Annual Conference on "Mindful Connectivity: Asian Perspectives and Influences" to make a presentation on "Mindfulness and Hindu Traditions in Contemporary India" held at Sonesta Hotel in Philadelphia, USA

10-20 April 18: Library Research on "Religious Pluralism and the Future of Interfaith Dialogue in India" for the ICI (India China Indonesia) Research on Religious Pluralism in Asia at Princeton Library, NJ, USA

20-22 April 18: Met with Alumnus Mr Tom Punnapadam & Family at their 25th Wedding Anniversary

3-4 May 2018: Attended the Provincial Council Meeting at Don Bosco School, Berhampore, WB.

5-6 May 2018: Presided at the 127th AIACHE Board Meeting held at AIACHE House, Janakpuri, New Delhi and visited St Stephens College New Delhi



Salesian College Sonada 80th Year Alumni meet held on 1st May 2018

-Mr. Roshan D. Lama, Alumni of Salesian College Sonada



The Alumni meet to mark the 80th Years Celebration of Salesian College Sonada was held on 1st May' 18 at College premises. The Alumni meet was lead by Vice-Principal Fr. C.M. Paul in the gracious presence of the Principal Fr. George Thadathil. The members present were Mr. Shaju Joseph, Fr. James Chacko, Mr. N.J. George, Mr. K.O. Augustine, Mr. Terence Mukhia, Mr. Roshan D. Lama and Mr. Niten Chettri.

The meet was filled with power packed activities, such as Self- introduction and personal sharing by each individual, Power Point Presentation on 80 Glorious years of SCS by Fr. C.M. Paul, Vision sharing on social responsibilities by Mr. Roshan D. Lama, Sharing of SCS success stories, challenges and innovations by Fr. George Thadathil, Fr. C.M. Paul and Dr. Terence Mukhiya and general discussions on miscellaneous themes in terms of general experiences by all participants.

It was also the Birthday of Fr. George Thadathil and we joined the Brothers and Fathers present in the campus for the Birth Day Celebration. Then we went for a short visit to College's recently developed new infrastructure, including Radio Salesian 90.8 FM.

Along with thought sharing and innovative ideas on strengthening the SCS Alumni Association in coordination with College management by all participants some of the resolutions passed include:

- 1st May of each year would be marked as SCS Alumni Day, so that the Alumni around the globe could plan ahead to meet at Sonada.
- To revive the Alumni Association Mr. N. J. George (1987 batch) based presently in Siliguri is given the responsibility to coordinate with batches prior to 2000 CE while Mr. Roshan D. Lama (2005 batch) to coordinate with batches after 2000 CE.
- The SCS Alumni Association will act as a catalyst to promote the culture of education and nurture the values of Don Bosco.
- Mr Roshan D Lama was entrusted with the task to explore the possibility of initiating a bank account for the existing registered society towards the future fund generation by the association.

With cheerful moments, goodwill and prayers, followed by Lunch, tea and snacks provided by College management the alumni meet prolonged till 4.30 PM. Though it was a small group but was truly a joyful and abundant meet. The presence of the family of Augustine and George also added to the homely experience.





PNF opens Oasis for care of HIV persons PNF care centre at Burma camp In a rented house.



3 HIV Orphans with Chairman Governor Shyamal Datta hands over Ambulance from SBI to PNF



Destinies Entwined

- Joe Ngamkhuchung, 1967 batch of Salesian College, Sonada

"1497 New HIV cases in the last 10 months" the headline in the local English Paper (Eastern Mirror) hits you on March 21, 2018. It is an official report from Nagaland State AIDS Control Society!

From the 1980s Nagaland has enjoyed the infamous status of being high on drug abuse, then high HIV prevalent state, much above the national level, in fact the 3rd highest HIV prevalent state in India. As of now Nagaland adult HIV infection is 0.75% compared to National 0.25% General HIV infection at the National level 0.29 while in Nagaland state, in a population less than 2 million is 1.29 (official Nagaland AIDS Control Society data).

February 1991 will remain the beginning of a new journey of my life. A journey no more alone after that! As an entry to youth work, I started coaching 21 Matric failed students of various high schools to revive their future. Drug abuse was vitiating the study atmosphere in the city. National Open Schools mushroomed overnight in the city to accommodate these dropouts in their hundreds, where school attendance was not compulsory.

As the youth lost sight of their future through drug abuse, I too practically lost sight of my own future as my journey got entwined with the struggling lives of so many youths!

Forgot about a job, forgot about financial security, forgot about sustainability... I was just caught in the struggle of the youth in front of me. I just couldn't look away. Our journeys got entwined. From 1991 till date, I am serving the youth with drug problems, youth infected and affected by HIV, single and double HIV orphans, young widows with HIV left to fend for themselves by their HIV infected husbands, long gone!

I registered "People in Need Foundation" as a society and am working through it. I set up drug Rehabilitation Centre, HIV Care Centre, work on prevention of HIV infection from parent to child, work on "community response to HIV" and joined "Indian Peoples Alliance for Combating HIV/AIDS" (IPACHA) a National NGO to improve capacity. I had no time "to stand and stare."

"Son, if you can dry the tears of a drug using boy's mother, you have earned your heaven." What could be more painful to hear from the depth of a mother's heart! My life continues with HIV orphans.

Well, it is not so much about winning a battle as finding a meaning in one's life and "lending a shoulder to lean on" to youth in trouble and their parents, experiencing deep human problems.



HIV orphans from Care Centre at Green Park lake Dimapur with their nurse for a picnic



A New Day for the HIV Orphans



Left: Chennai Meeting Right: Joe the PNF Chairman is Vice President of IPACHA



Right: President Dr. Ashok Rao centre, in green Vice president from Chennai. White shirt Joe Vice President, pink shirt Dr. Tomy Protasis Treasurer



Below: IPACHA Executive meeting in Delhi



President IPACHA, Dr. Ashok Rao CEO, Freedom Foundation BIR Addressing the delegates.



Brisbane

- Sonam Dorjee,
Alumni of Salesian College Sonada

After serving my country for 15 years as a teacher, I decided to quit teaching profession and move to Australia for better prospects. Many people say that Moving to Australia means running towards opportunities and I too believe since Australia is a country where the population, the economy, and the opportunities are growing quickly. But life here is busy with study and work. Time is precious and every second counts, there is no excuse for being late but every hard work is rewarded. You may probably ask why thousands of people from across the planet decide for migrating to Australia and stay there for good. It is because Australia, the world's smallest continent is a wealthy country with a population of over 21 million people (2008 estimate) as per the data of Australian migration, almost every day there are lots of people who are applying for different Australian visas.

Another good reason why people migrate to Australia is its beautiful climate and geography. This land has striking natural beauty. The temperatures sometimes get high and it frequently takes place in the interiors of the country. Australia benefits from the maritime influence and has a beautiful countryside that make the people love everything about it. The beautiful beach, the soothing feeling that you can get once you are here, add to the wish that everyone could stay here for the rest of their life.

I live in Brisbane and it is the capital of Queensland, Australia's sunshine state. Its sub-tropical climate and dynamic economy are attracting large numbers of migrants from all over the globe. It has a population of around two million people who enjoy a relaxed lifestyle in a beautiful, spacious city. Like most Australian cities, the majority of people live in detached houses with gardens. This means the city sprawls over a large area. Brisbane is also the most populous city in the Australian state of Queensland, and the third most populous city in Australia. Brisbane is very multicultural, young and open-minded. The average age is 37. It's a place where people from all over the world come to share and contribute to a modern metropolitan city living experience. People here are quite casual and informal and expect everyone to be treated equally.

The beautiful Brisbane River flows through the heart of the city. Around one-quarter of Brisbane's residents were born overseas. According to the Bureau of Statistics, people from the UK are Brisbane's biggest migrant group, making up 6 percent of the population. The next biggest group is New Zealanders (4%). Other nationalities make up

less than 1 percent of the population each. Around 6% of Brisbane's population comes from Asian countries and 0.4% come from the Middle East or North Africa. Aboriginal Australians represent 1% of Brisbane's population. Despite having two million inhabitants, Brisbane is quieter than the larger cities of Sydney and Melbourne. I feel Brisbane is a friendly place to study, work and get settled.

No matter which sports you love, Brisbane has it all. Brisbane also has fabulous festival and celebrations. It offers international students some of Australia's finest higher education institutions, including the award-winning University of Queensland and internationally renowned Queensland University of Technology and Griffith University. There is also a number of English language colleges, vocational education providers and schools from which to choose. There are a wide range of jobs available for international students in Brisbane. Strong economic growth has made Brisbane one of the world's fastest-growing capital cities, with real part-time employment opportunities for students, as well as career opportunities for graduates willing to settle there. There are plenty of ways to find work that suits one's interest. Online career and recruitment websites can provide regular updated work listings, searchable by industry.

Sometimes I feel tough being away from home but still it was the best decision-I am no longer restricted by distance from cultural and creative events, and now I am able to study something I am passionate about. With great combination of opportunities, an easy lifestyle and proximity to some of the world's most beautiful natural wonders, I love studying and living in Brisbane. I feel Brisbane is a nice place to study, work and get settled.



Congratulations



Our Hearty Congratulations for Bishop P.K. George Palliparambil of Miao Diocese in Arunachal Pradesh on receiving BHARAT GAURAV 2018- Life Time Achievement Award in the House of Commons, British Parliament London on 13 April 2018 . He is a Salesian College Alumnus of 1977 batch. It is a proud moment for Salesian College Sonada.



The **Alumni Association of Salesian College Siliguri** was felicitated by Terai Lions Blood Bank on 1st May, 2018 for their outstanding performance of organising Blood Donation Camp every year in the College campus. Ms. Kuljeet Kaur the Secretary and Mr. Chanchal Agarwal the President represented the Association. We whole heartedly congratulate the members of Alumni Association of Salesian College Siliguri for such achievement.

From the Campus

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IGNOU Induction Programme in SCS

Salesian College Sonada organised the 22nd IGNOU Induction program at the College campus on 24 April 2018.

Protechno 2018

Salesian College Sonada organised an Inter College Fest '**Protechno 2018**' on 28 April, 2018 in the campus.



Sonada Alumini towards 80 years celebration

Illustrious alumni of Salesian College Sonada Fr M.C.Gorge Rector of Don Bosco Kumarikatta and Principal of Don Bosco Sashipur Assam and Mr Tomy Cherian former HOD of English at St. Thomas College Palai, 29 April 2018 were honoured in the College campus to mark the occasion of 80 year celebration of Salesian College Sonada.

